

The MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ADVISORS COMMITTEE presents:

TOP NOTCH REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Friday, June 6, 2008

MCLE, Boston

Program Agenda

8:00 REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

8:30 WELCOME

8:45 **THE INS AND OUTS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS**

Dr. Medoff will focus on the use and relevance of psychological testing in child welfare and mental health cases and will discuss both advantages and limitations as well as specific factors outlined in *Daubert*, *Kuhmo* and *Joiner*. He will also consider variables related to referrals and test results.

David Medoff, PhD, Forensic Psychologist, Associate Professor and Director, Mental Health Counseling Program, Suffolk University

9:45 **PARTNERING WITH PEDIATRICIANS**

Dr. Augustyn's talk will describe what pediatricians are doing post *Rosie D.* including the Parents Evaluation of Developmental Status, the Pediatric Symptom Checklist, and parental screening for mental health. She will also cover what pediatricians do with a positive screen and distinguish between the myriad of professionals available to work with kids in addition to the tests and treatment offered.

Marilyn Augustyn, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, BU School of Medicine. Division Director, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center

11:00 **CHILDREN ON THE SPECTRUM**

Dr. Bostic will review how the autistic spectrum has widened over the past decade, how the educational needs of these children differ from other students, and how to work with (and against) schools to serve these students. Methods to cultivate a collaborative approach will be described, and specific components of educational programming that most make a difference.

Jeff Bostic, MD, EdD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School. Director, School Psychiatry Program and Medical Director, Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project, Massachusetts General Hospital

12:30 LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1:30 **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTING CHILDREN WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS**

This session will bring audience members up-to-date on matters of critical importance to zealous representation of children with mental illness. Topics to be covered include the delivery of services post- *Rosie D.*, pending legislative initiatives, changes in state regulations, and the recent court decision in *Hilary*.

Michael Dsida, JD, Deputy Chief Counsel, CAFL, Committee for Public Counsel Services
Carol Rosensweig, JD, Trial Panel Director, CAFL, Committee for Public Counsel Services
Kathryn Rucker, JD, Staff Attorney, Center for Public Representation
Senator Karen E. Spilka, Chair, Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities

3:30 **SPECIAL EDUCATION: AN INTENSIVE STUDY FOR ADVOCATES**

This talk targets key areas of special education advocacy that would be useful as tools for attorneys of parents in CHINS cases to get children the services and support they need to remain in the home. Mr. Sindelar will present both fundamentals and developing areas in the field of special education.

Tim Sindelar, JD, Hilton, Sindelar & Hahn